

PROBLEMS FOR "SUN" READERS TO SOLVE

All the Bridge Experts Fail in Eighteenth Honor List Contest.

TENACE A TRICK WINNER

Fireworks at Checkers — Answers to Arizona's Pat Hand Poker Puzzle.

Bridge problem No. 183 is built upon the theme of giving the adversaries a trick in one suit in order to make them lose two tricks in another suit, a class of problems usually not only interesting but instructive, as these tenace positions are the great trick winners in actual play.

Here is the distribution of the cards:

Hand distribution for Problem No. 183:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Clubs are trumps and Z is in the lead. Y and Z want seven tricks against any defense.

The solution depends on which of two tenaces held by Y and Z shall make the required extra trick for them. Z holds a potential tenace in spades over B and Y-Z between them hold a tenace in hearts over A. The lead can be forced upon either adversary according to their play on the trump suit when it is led.

Z starts with the deuce of spades, which Y trumps, leading the king of trumps. A and B can then decide which of them will retain the high trump. If both play small B will be in the lead later, and it is the spade tenace in Z's hand that must be depended on to get the extra trick for him.

Y therefore leads the king of diamonds, picking up Z's queen, and follows with the ten, on which Z discards a small heart. When Y leads a small heart Z is in the lead, losing the trump and giving the lead to B, who loses two tricks in spades by leading the king. If B throws the queen of trumps on the king when Y leads that card the best trump remains with A, and he must be made to lose all his high cards. Y leads a small diamond after the trump instead of once, putting A in, Y discarding a small heart. If A leads a small heart Y holds the trick and gives Z a trick with the heart queen after Z has discarded two spades.

If A leads the jack of hearts Z wins it with the queen, takes his trick of spades, and then puts Y in with a heart, so that he shall make the king of diamonds. If A leads the diamond instead of the heart Y makes his two diamond tricks at once, and puts Z in with a heart to make the heart queen and the spade tenace.

Correct solutions from: H. C. Root, Horner Riker, Charles M. Root, Jay Reed, D. A. W. A. J. Schmitt, C. H. LeMon, H. C. Hill, Milton C. Isbell, D. Perry, B. Arnold, W. A. Bulkeley, C. L. Hunter, J. W. Miller, Frank R. Merrick, O. H. Boston, Henry Andrews, R. C. Hill, J. W. Cromwell, Jr., Keystone, C. F. Johnson, E. M. Frost, B. G. Braine, James Hunter, W. P. Burton, D. Blair Walker, McArthur, James Steen, A. L. Straburger and H. T. Green.

Late solutions to hand for No. 182 from Burton, D. Blair, B. Braine, Sidney C. Neft and Kenneth S. Hogg.

It frequently happens that a good problem can be improved upon after it has been thoroughly analyzed by a large number of persons, and the following varying routes to the solution, especially in the matter of concealing a trap before arriving at a too obvious solution. Here is a rearranged hand, kind:

BRIDGE PROBLEM NO. 182.

By Arthur S. Meyer.

Hand distribution for Problem No. 182:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Correct solutions from: W. A. Bulkeley, A. E. Stochin, Constance Gardner, D. W. E. Wernick, C. A. R. Frederick, D. Hobbs and Harry B. Taber.

That this problem was not easy and that Prescott is to be excused for its unbelief is clear from the fact that several correspondents have written to this Sun to say that they spent hours on it and did not believe it could be done. One of the solvers says:

"I am dealing with this the elements of joyfulness for Nate Reed of Prescott and his friends, the jeeing players. I may say, however, that it took full five hand when they see it to arrive at the enclosed solution. The problem was peculiarly interesting."

SOME MORE GEOMETRY.

Here is a little problem that requires no technical knowledge in order to arrive at the solution, all that is necessary being the ability to think the thing out.

There are no trumps and Z is in the lead. As originally composed this problem was to get five tricks for Y and Z. As rearranged, can Y and Z get five tricks, and if so, how?

EIGHTEENTH HONOR LIST.

The four problems selected for this list were Nos. 171, 172, 173 and 174, by Jay Reed, H. C. Root, Prof. Wittenbaker and S. C. Kinsey.

Of the experts none survives. Of the six who thoroughly analyzed No. 172, two died on other problems of the series. The only person to live through this set with two stars to his name is Charles M. Root of Elizabeth, N. J., while C. F. Darling of Newbury, A. S. has one star. The others who solved all four of the set were O. H. Boston of Boston and James Hunter of West Haverstraw, N. Y.

This gives a clean slate with which to start all over again, with a chance for every one to keep on the expert list from now on, as all correct solutions for the next four problems will begin without any stars, but those who keep on solving each series correctly will be ranked as experts and those who get only an occasional series right will receive stars for each.

From each set of ten problems four are selected for the honor list, and those who solve all four are entitled to a place. Now let us see who will win out this time.

CHECKER ENDINGS.

Problem No. 183 was one of those which are too deep for the average solver, being intended rather to test the ability to solve a position which might arise in an actual game in which sweeps or strokes are not common.

The distribution of the men was: Black

men on 2 and 5, king on 31. White men on 9, 14, 15, 23 and 27. White to play and win. Here are the moves that solve:

White: 27-24, 23-19, 15-10, 14-10, 6-1

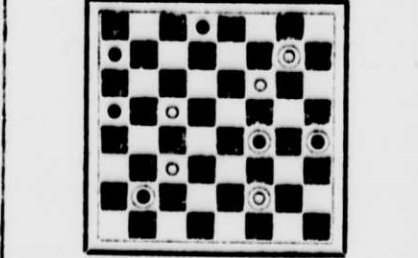
Black: 31-27, 27-20, 20-24, 24-10, 10-6

Correct solutions from: L. Barlow, Harold Link and J. H. Norwood. All others went astray at the critical move, white's 15-10.

Here is a very good stroke problem, sent to The Sun by an admirer of that style of winding things up. Some solvers like fireworks, but the trouble in this one is to discover where to apply the match to set them off.

PROBLEM NO. 185. CHECKERS.

By S. Miller. Black.



White. White to play and win.

THOSE BOOKKEEPERS.

It may be interesting to those who worked over this problem to know that the first solution given in The Sun's last week by Charles D. Shulham, O. H. Boston, J. W. Miller and Henry Crane was the correct one, and the one upon which the account was set.

All the other bookkeepers had it wrong through making the mistake of taking into consideration the amount of rent paid and the amount received, which have nothing to do with the case. The only sum upon which the loss was to be adjusted was the \$15.00.

THE LOST CHORD—AT POKER.

A large number of solutions have been received in answer to this problem, but the majority of them were spoiled by introducing four of a kind as a pat hand, and a number of solvers failed to make the diagonals fulfill the conditions.

Some sent in reversals, as if they were different solutions, but they amount only to looking at the same arrangements from the other side of the table. Cards can be read from any side.

Four different solutions to the problem are at hand, and the remarkable thing about them is that none of them is the same as that eventually found in Prescott and believed to be the original.

The betting men out there were inclined to believe some of their spare cash that there could be but one solution, but here are four, all different from theirs. Some of The Sun's readers may like to amuse themselves finding out the solution that was discovered in Prescott.

Hand distribution for Problem No. 184:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 185:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 186:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 187:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 188:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 189:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 190:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 191:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 192:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 193:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 194:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 195:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 196:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 197:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 198:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Hand distribution for Problem No. 199:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

From the Independent.

THE FIVE CARD SUIT AND A NO TRUMP BID

A Situation at Royal Auction Which the Experts Are Discussing.

SHOULD THE PARTNER PASS

Interesting Hands Showing the Possibilities in an Overcall.

An interesting question has been going the rounds of the royal auction players lately as to whether it is not wise to overcall a no trump with any five card suit, whether the rest of the hand is a bust or not.

This seems to be a move in the direction of what Cavendish used to call an extension of principle. In the old game it was long held that if the third hand had five cards of a winning suit, such as hearts, he should overcall his partner's no trump, because many no trumps were largely speculative and a heart make with a no trump on the table to help it was always a safe game.

But the only suits with which it was thought worth while to overcall were the red ones, as they were the only suits in which it was possible to go game from zero. No good player would dream of overcalling with a club or a spade, because that would practically force the original declarer either to go back to his no trump with a heavier contract on his hands or to abandon any hope of going game on that deal.

Now that all the suits are winning suits, why not overcall the no trump with any one of them that contains five cards? That is the question the experts are beginning to ask.

Looking at it from the other side of the table, if the player with the five card suit had the original declaration and knew that his partner had a no trump to help him, would he have an hesitation in pushing his own call to two tricks? If the answer to this is in the affirmative, then why not call two tricks on the same cards under the same conditions if the no trump has been shown?

The objects, on the other hand, ask what is the use? If the dealer has a no trump and you have a good five card suit, with possible tricks in other suits so that your hand is not a bust, what better assistance can your partner ask for than to have you keep still and to have your hand on the table as an answer to his no trump?

Both sides agree that if the third hand holds a bust outside his one long suit and the second hand passes a warning. It is when the hand is not a bust but a pretty strong combination of cards, almost a no trump in itself sometimes, that the doubt arises as to the best course to pursue.

The danger that the conservative players seek to avoid is the missing suit. An original no trump shows nothing except that the hand is above average and protected in three suits. What these suits are there is no means of knowing unless the third hand has the fourth suit solid. Even then it must be remembered that the days of the sporty no trump are not quite passed.

Several interesting hands have lately been sent to The Sun from various parts of the country by players who are evidently in sympathy with the theory of overcalling an original no trump by the dealer with any good five card suit, whether the rest of the hand is a bust or not. While it must be admitted that the combination of circumstances that will defeat the player who refuses to overcall is not likely to arise very often, it is just as well to avoid the possibility of loss, however remote it may be.

Here is one of the examples sent. It shows how two partners who imagine they have everything their own way may be let down when the third hand does not overcall:

Hand distribution for Problem No. 184:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

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hands should be good for four or five by cards.

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Z dealt and declared no trumps and Y passed, holding a hand that was only a queen below average and looking forward to winning a great game.

A led a spade and Z won the queen with the ace. As he could not make reentries enough in the dummy to justify playing for the hearts he concluded to try the clubs, testing a small jack on the return, probably wishing a moment afterward that he had taken the finesse the other way, but A would have covered with the fourchette if the jack had been led through him. A must make a club trick.

Another spade lead cleared that suit up for A, and Z made his two club tricks, leaving Y in the lead. The king and another diamond from Y made it look to Z as if the only chance was for a finesse in diamonds, but it let in three spade tricks. These, with the two hearts, set the contract for 50 points.

The diamond finesse was bad play, and the beginner should study the reason for not making it. Even if it comes off Z cannot go game, as two by cards is the limit of possibility against the situation declared by the play. If the finesse won Z could not drop the queen, ten, nine, as there must be four diamonds in one hand or the other against him. Z should have made his ace of diamonds and his contract and been thankful to be so well out of it.

In this hand had Y overcalled with his five card suit, weak as it is, Y and Z would have gone game. Having four good trumps B would probably open his long suit. Y would win with the king and lead trumps, forcing B into the lead again. Next B tried a club lead through dummy's king and Jack Y wins and leads another round of trumps, putting B in again.

If B tries another club, which would be the only play, Z wins and leads three rounds of spades, Y ruffing the third round with the eight and picking up B's small ones, after which two diamonds make, leaving Y and Z four tricks.

Here is a case in which the dealer thought he could have saved himself had he been playing with a partner who believed in overcalling with any five card suit, regardless of the strength of the rest of the hand:

Hand distribution for Problem No. 184:

White: ♠ 10 5 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ 10 3, ♣ 7 4 6 5

Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Z dealt on the rubber game and declared no trumps. As usual Y passed, imagining that he had a fine supporting hand. A led the heart queen and B unblocked by putting on the king and returning the ace and nine, so that A and B get six heart tricks between them, Z whittling his hand down to three diamonds, two spades and two clubs. This gave him a certainty of his contract as soon as the hearts ran out.

It was objected that had Y overcalled with a club Z would have thought his hand was a bust and owing to the difficulty of going game in clubs would have gone back to the no trump, but Z argues differently.

"If my partner overcalls with a club," says he, "that is his five card suit, and he would not call a club if he had five cards in a better suit, such as hearts, of which I have none. Therefore he has not five hearts, and one adversary or the other must have at least that number."

"It is more than probable, therefore, that hearts will be led and the suit cleared up immediately. Unless I can win over a trick outside the hearts I cannot go game, as our hearts will make against me. The safe course, therefore, is to let the make stay at a club."

Original as this scheme of negative reasoning seems to be it is undoubtedly sound and it will be readily seen that had Y overcalled with two clubs and Z left that the winning declaration they would have made a grand slam, regardless of what B led for the first trick, although he would probably start with the king of hearts. Z would ruff it and would give Y two diamonds of his losing hearts on the diamonds after the adverse trumps were pulled, Z ruffing the other two.

Y is a rather interesting specimen of the sporty no trump, which is not so common now as it used to be. Before the new count came into vogue. For the benefit of those who are not familiar with the technical terms of the game it should be explained that a sporty no trump is one that is declared on two suits. One of these is usually solid and good for six tricks and the other is headed by the ace and king.

The argument in its favor is that unless dummy has a yorborough he must get in and the moment he gets in he wins a trick. Add this to the six tricks in the solid suit and the outside ace and king and you have nine tricks, or three by cards and the game at no trump.

The trouble with sporty no trumps is that the suit does not always turn out to be solid and that the gamble on the hand comes to grief. Take this case:

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Black: ♠ 7 4 6 5, ♥ 10 9 8 7 2, ♦ 10 9 8 7 2, ♣ 10 9 8 7 2

Z dealt on the rubber game and declared no trumps, trusting to his partner to protect the two suits in which Z was weak. As usual it never entered his head that he was taking a gamble. Having four honors in his hand Y thought the no trump would go through, so A led.

Jack and B won with the queen. B led the ten of diamonds up to weakness, hoping his partner could reenter in that suit and come through the heart again.

Z won this trick and started to make his six clubs. Finding them all in B's hand against him, he switched to the spades. A, who had discarded one spade, put on the king and led another diamond. Z ordered the spade again and B led a club, after which A and Z won all the tricks, so that Z made nothing out of the combined hands but the two diamonds and his three top clubs.

Let Y overcall Z with two royals, his five card suit, and it does not help Z unless he takes warning and shifts to clubs, which he cannot do for three tricks. A and B can make seven or eight tricks against the declaration of royals, because they get Z's reentries in diamonds out of his hand before he can get the trumps out of the way of his clubs.

The defect in this case is not in the system, but in the manner of its use. In declaring a no trump on two suits, one of which is not solid. If Z's clubs were solid, so that it could not win a club trick the no trump or the royal would go through.

BALL CUSTOMS A CENTURY AGO.

Harp and Flute Accompaniments at Dances—Formal Introductions.

Society balls, typical as they may be of the tastes of the day, have lost a great deal of the dignity of a generation or two ago. Early in the last century there was less difference between the fashionable ball of great hostesses and smaller dances. Boy and girl dances were unknown. The position of the chaperon had not been imposed.

However, strict the etiquette to-day of the State balls at Buckingham Palace and Windsor, says the London Evening Standard, manners and customs in ordinary society have lapsed from the highly strung conventions of our great-grandmothers early in the last century, when set quadrilles were de rigueur at every private dance.

These quadrilles, laden with etiquette and weighed down by rules of precedence, were a burden to the hostess and to young brides bracing themselves for the ordeal of the first rout. Their reputations for being tedious could be made by the ease with which they would be discarded after set, so that no confusion should take place before the commencement of each fresh number.

Etiquette books of the day provide food for reflection nowadays. The matron who had much to learn at the debut of her career. So much more seems to have depended upon the gift of a ball than has to be borne to-day, when girls seem to manage their own affairs, and the band and the caterer do the rest.

Orchestras in those days consisted of violins with harp and flute accompaniments. Much of the quadrille music of the time was written for harp and flute, and probably many a young lady during the extra—had they relaxed their strict rules to allow such things—would have been able to oblige the company with a harp accompaniment.

Guests arrived in those days between 9 and 12. This latitude allowed a hostess to effect all the necessary introductions one by one and to arrange the different quadrilles, taking her invites in order as they arrived. A great deal was made of formal introductions. A hostess took this duty upon herself, and blushing young ladies could look forward with complacency to their first balls or to their position as strangers in a new country without having to contemplate a wall flower position all the evening.

Tea and coffee were usually served in the cloak room. As soon as a sufficient number of dancers had arrived, the lady of the house left her position at the head of the stairs and opened the ball, her husband leading out the lady of highest rank present. Should the hostess refuse to dance, she busied herself in collecting together the next set to take the place of those who had started.

Nothing displays more want of management and method than the way of an old etiquette book of late Georgian days, "than a dead pause after a dance, while the lady, all confusion at so disagreeable a circumstance, is begging those to take their places who have perhaps never been introduced to partners. There should be no monopoly of this delightful recreation, all the dancers in the party should enjoy it in regular succession."

These pauses, however, permitted refreshments to be handed round. One can hardly imagine the confusion and footmen to arrive nowadays laden with trays at the conclusion of a value or a two-step and endeavor to press the tea, romance, neglige, small roast cakes on chaperons and dancers which custom demanded.

Supper in 1828 was served either at half past 12 or 1 o'clock. Both with regard to the pleasure of her company and her own comfort, "says the writer of the same manual," a matron would do well to discountenance the habit, which is sometimes seen, of the gentlemen remaining long in the supper room after the ladies have retired. It frequently causes a formal party of silent ladies, who, cheerfulness and good humor which they had worn during the preceding part of the evening."

The supper tables were crowded with what they regarded as "little delicacies." Although the food was laid out in collared cases under this designation, these toothsome fishes were part of the ball supper menu, together with the usual cold meats, tongue, blanc-mange, "whips," fruit trifles, jellies and ornamental confectionery. Men were not expected to sit or sup until the ladies had retired.

Six weeks invitations were usual in those days. Cards were printed—as now—from a copper plate. Either the card announced that such-and-such a couple would "require" the pleasure of Mr. and Mrs. ———'s company to an evening party Wednesday, July ———. Dancing. The favor of an answer is desired. S. V. P. had no place in the invitations of the day.

Queer Things About Animals.

From the Anvers.

There are many strange facts about animals which no one has ever seemed able to understand. A fly, for instance, will crawl to the top of a window pane, fly back to the bottom, and crawl up again. Hardly ever does it fly up and crawl down. House search for food always with the sun behind them, so that its rays will reflect on the tiny particles. Yet a blind hen, for whom this reason does not hold, always manages to get the sun behind her when she scratches.

Cats hardly ever lie with their feet to the fire. In most cases they lie instead with their feet to the left. A mouse overlooks a freshly laid bait with a suspicious eye. He does not eat it until he has enjoyed the pleasures of an unlimited store.

When a dog walks round two or three times round a piece of food, it is because his remote ancestors had to scratch round in the leaves or long grass for a bed before they could find a convenient place in which to lie.

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